

**From:** Lura and Dave Ratts  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/25/02 6:05pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft settlement

I want to express my concern that the Microsoft settlement is so long in coming. I feel strongly that we need to stop harassing Microsoft. Microsoft has already agreed to hide its internet explorer icon from the desktop.

Any further action serves only as a gift to the competitors of Microsoft. No money will go to the consumers, supposedly the ones who have been hurt by Microsoft's icon's being on the desktop when the software is purchased and installed.

I know that I made a conscious decision as to which browser I wanted to use, even though the Microsoft icon showed up on my desktop. Surely that is not too difficult to do for the average consumer. We need to allow the competition that exists between companies to do its thing. It is not right to artificially "set" the competition in order that one company or another has an advantage over the others. It would be the same as making Safeway change some of their ways of doing business just because other grocers are not able to do as well.

This sets a terrible precedent for the future. One of the things that makes America great is the free enterprise system!

Thank you for your interest in my opinion.

Lura Ratts  
Vancouver, WA